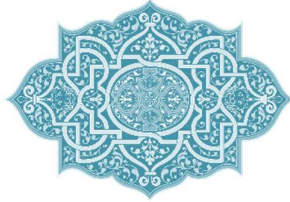


KEY POINTS – LESSON 15



Speaker: Mufti Ismail Menk

FILL YOUR HEARTS WITH THE LOVE OF ALLAH SWT AND HIS MESSENGER ﷺ

‘I love you’

Many a time people utter this statement, but it is just a statement to fool people and try to get into their heart. However, we have also got people who don't utter this with their tongues; rather, they prove it with their conduct, care, and affection. When these people say 'I love you' it reaffirms what our hearts already know. We should therefore not be fooled by anyone who makes this claim unless we feel it in our heart. We should not let our heart feel a victim to such an empty statement. On the flip side, if we truly love someone, it has to be reflected in our behavior and conduct. If that is not the case and we keep going what hurts our loved one and keep doing the things that he or she dislikes, one day they would get fed up with and tell us that we have hypocrite whose words do not carry any weight.

It is also to be understood that **true love** is not dependant on the external appearances. We love our mothers and fathers and other people that are close to our hearts irrespective of their appearances. The love that is related only to the external appearances can never be the true love. As we grow old, those spouses who love each other, do not just love because of the beauty and handsomeness; these factors fade away. Their love is based on the feeling of each other's company and the bond they have between them.

The truest love that one can have is Allah swt. It is far above the love of any created being. When we claim we love Him, it should not be mere words; rather we should prove it with our actions and by letting this love guide our life. Part of loving Allah swt is loving the ones that He loves and loving the ones that He has asked us to love, understanding their rights upon us and fulfilling them with wholeheartedness.

How is loving Allah swt different from loving anyone else

When we give our heart to a worldly being, they have got the power to destroy it and break it to the last piece. If it is wealth, it can depart. If it is the beauty, it can fade away. If it is power, it can be taken away. If it is a person, he can leave us too. However, if we love Allah swt, it would only nurture



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our hearts further and we would be able to feel an everlasting joy – a joy that would never fade or diminish.

Love of Allah includes the love of the Messenger ﷺ

Loving the Prophet ﷺ is a part of loving Allah swt and vice versa. You cannot have without the other. You cannot truly love Allah swt unless you love the Messenger ﷺ, and you cannot truly love the Messenger ﷺ unless you love Allah swt.

How should we express our love for Allah swt and His messenger ﷺ

As human beings, when we love someone, we do it in the following ways:

- We never wish to make them unhappy
- We would do for them whatever we can
- We wish to sacrifice ourselves for them
- We are always thinking about them
- They are the first ones in our minds and whenever we talk, our words get back to them
- We would spend on them whatever we can and then feel good about it; if we can't afford something, we work extra hard to earn and give them something that like even if they haven't asked for it.
- You want them to love you too
- When they make mention of you somewhere in good words, it gives you that immense happiness
- When we truly love someone, we start to love those people too that he or she loves

If we love Allah swt, why wouldn't we love to spend time with Him? Why wouldn't we love to spend in His path? Why would we not busy ourselves with His remembrance? Why wouldn't we strive to get close to Him and His messenger ﷺ?

We are guilty

Suppose if the person you loves gives you a book and says that it is my book and I want you to read it. If you are truly in love, you would read it the same day or night and proudly tell that person that you have finished it. How about the Quran? How attached are you to it? How much agitated we get when the Imam takes a few more minutes than usual to finish the salah? How do we feel if the Taraweeh gets a little longer? How many of us don't listen to beneficial lectures thinking they are too long? On the other hand, when it comes to illicit relationships, we are willing to spend the whole night. We are willing to spend the whole night on facebook and WhatsApp. When it comes to Allah swt, we are not willing to spend even a portion of night with Him! When it comes to the love of Allah swt that we are guilty – we may say with our tongue that we love Allah swt and His messenger ﷺ but we have not even applied the ways in which we express love to human being! Allah is unimaginably greater than everything, and so should be our love for Him. The current state of our affairs is not how the lover are supposed to express their love. This is the reason why we are crushed to pieces.



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We have to mend our relationship with Allah swt. He has control over the hearts of those who we love. He has more control over our hearts than what we have over them. He would mend our hearts if we fall in love with Him.

Our Prophet ﷺ taught us a beautiful dua asking Allah swt for reviving our hearts and firming them on the beautiful religion of Islam:

يَا مُقَلِّبَ الْقُلُوبِ ثَبِّتْ قَلْبِي عَلَى دِينِكَ

O turner of the hearts, make our hearts firm on your deen [of Islam] – (Musnad Ahmed, 12107)

How Allah swt has asked us to show love towards Him

Allah swt said to His messenger ﷺ:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

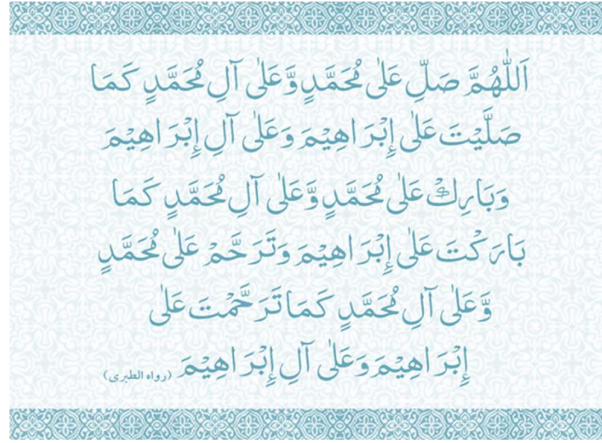
Tell the people [O Muhammad]: "If you truly love Allah, then follow me; Allah will also love you and forgive you your sins. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful." (Quran 3:31)

This is what Allah wants from us if we claim to love Him: Loving the Prophet ﷺ and following him. Allah made him to most beloved one to him; he made him the final prophet; he made him visit the seven heavens; he gave him the final guidance to the mankind and preserved it along with the Sunnah of his final messenger for all the times to come; on top of Allah that, Allah chose you and me to be in his blessed Ummah. If people of this ummah claim to love Allah swt, they can express it by lovingly following the messenger of Allah ﷺ. We have to adopt and follow what he says. If we do so, Allah will love us in return and forgive all our sins.

It is very natural that we love what our loved one loves. Our loved one would want his or her loved ones to be loved by us too. If we marry someone and start hating his or her mother or father, or his or her children from a previous marriage, and yet claim to love that person, it would be a hollow statement in the eyes of that person. We have to love what they love if we truly love them.

In the same way, Allah swt is telling us that if you love Me, love what He loves – first and foremost of them, our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. When his blessed name is mentioned, we should say the salawat.

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When we say this, the value of the reward that is given to us is ten times more the reward of this statement. This is how much Allah swt loves His messenger.

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ وَاحِدَةً صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَشْرًا

408 صحيح مسلم كتاب الصلاة باب الصلاة على النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم بعد التشهد

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace, and blessings be upon him, said, “Whoever sends blessings upon me once will have Allah send blessings upon him ten times.”

Source: Şaḥīḥ Muslim 408

Grade: Sahih (authentic) according to Muslim

So, sending the blessings upon the Prophet ﷺ is, in essence, sending blessings upon our own selves too. We should do it as often as possible. Whoever exceeds in sending blessings and salawat upon the Prophet ﷺ would receive his intercession on the day of judgment.

Allah give us opportunity after opportunity

If we hurt a human being, they may give us a few chances, but not for long. If we keep hurting them, they would not love us anymore and our statement ‘I love you’ would be a meaningless phrase for them. But it doesn’t work this way with Allah swt. He allows us to come back again and again and again. He tells us that if you have committed a mistake, come back to me, irrespective of how many times you have done that. He would provide you opportunity after opportunity to come back. He would give us seasons like Ramadan when the deeds are multiplied. He would bless us with the beautiful nights such as Laylatul Qadr when we can accumulate heaps of rewards and be among the blessed ones. Every week He gives us a day which is superior to all other days in the week. That is the day which is meant to soften our hearts. He would give us opportunities to attain His love by loving His creations, by loving and caring for our parents, by being best to one’s family, by being good to the orphans and widows and so on. Opportunities are all around us. We should rush to avail of such opportunities that come over the way.



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Loving Allah is about being content with His commands

When Allah swt created mercy, he spread 1 portion of that among the creations and 99 parts of it He has reserved for the day of judgment – a day when we will only get either His mercy and rahmah or His justice. Allah swt loves all of us. We have to have trust in His mercy. We have to be content with His commands as they the Sahabah were. Allah swt says:

وَالسَّابِقُونَ السَّابِقُونَ أُولَئِكَ الْمُقَدَّمُونَ وَالْأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفَوَّضُونَ وَالَّذِينَ تَبِعُوا وَوَعَدَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

As for the first pioneers who accepted Islam from the Muhajir (immigrants) and Ansar (supporters in Madinah) and those who follow them in good deeds, Allah is well pleased with them and they are pleased with Him. He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they shall live for ever: that is the mighty achievement. (Quran 9:100)

A common mistake

Many people who start to tread the path of Islam start looking down upon the others who are in sin. This is one of the biggest mistakes. Even though they are in sin, they are still our brothers and sisters. Rather than hating them, we should feel the pain for them and try our best. Enhance our own efforts. We should dislike the sin and still be loving the those who are in sin and the manifestation of that love would be our utmost effort to be able to guide them in beautiful manners taught to us by our beloved Messenger ﷺ. If we love the creation of Allah and guide them through the way of the Prophet ﷺ, Allah swt would love us.

We should love people for the sake of Allah. There is absolutely no point in cutting our relations with others based on where they place their hands during Salah or if they adhere to this sheikh or the other. We have to pray for them and serve them. A part of serving them is also calling them towards Allah swt in the most beautiful of manners.

Final Advice:

There are many people who have destroyed their lives and marriages by running after the love that is not true. If we wish to save our hearts, we have to truly love Allah swt and protect our selves with unreal and artificial love which is only a delusion. We have to love for Allah's sake. Our actions should become a testimony of this love for Allah and love for those who we love for Allah's sake. We have to follow the beautiful ways and methods of our beloved Prophet ﷺ for this is what would help us acquire Allah's love and mercy in this world and the hereafter.

CONTEMPLATION TASK FOR LESSON 15:

Ponder upon how we can purify our love for Allah swt and how can we live our lives accordingly to the Sunnah way in order to truly express this love.